



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

### THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

#### House Bill 5846: AAC ENERGY GENERATION FROM ORGANIC REFUSE

February 10, 2011

#### TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

The Department of Public Utility Control, (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 5846. House Bill No. 5846 amends the general statutes to establish a pilot program to offer credit incentives for power generated from methane gas from organic refuse. However, it is unclear from the proposed language of the bill which Class I, II, or III the REC's would derive from. The Department would suggest that further clarification is needed but for the purposes of this testimony will assume the intent of the bill is to expand Class I's definition of eligible methane gas resources.

Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 16-1(a)(26) which defines Class I renewable energy requirements already includes methane gas from landfills. The Department has interpreted this to also include methane produced at farms from organic sources such as cow, chicken and other organic waste. (See the Department's Decision in Docket No: 09-12-09, Application of Chaput Family Farms For A Declaratory Ruling For Agricultural Methane Facility).

The Department supports this clarification to the statutes for the positive impacts to the state's renewable portfolio standards (RPS) and for the ancillary benefits that will come about as a result of this addition to the definition of methane gas resources. Including electric generation derived from organic or agricultural methane refuse will help farmers reduce their energy costs making their farms more viable, improve the environment and help Connecticut meet its increasing Class I renewable energy requirements.

The Department thanks the Committee for this opportunity to provide testimony and looks forward to working with the Committee on this matter.